

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 7, 10, 12 and 18 have been amended herein; claims 9, 17 and 20-26 have been canceled.

Claims 7, 10-11 and 18-19 were previously indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). Claim 7 has been so rewritten herein. Claims 10-11 and 18-19 now depend from claims 1 and 12, respectively, and are believed to be allowable.

The rejection of claims 1-6, 8, 12-16 and 20-26 and 21 was maintained by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but the rejection of claims 9 and 17 was reversed. All limitations of dependent claims 9 and 17 have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 12, and claims 9 and 17 have been canceled. In addition, the dependence of claims 10 and 18 has been amended herein.

Accordingly, all pending claims are believed to be allowable. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

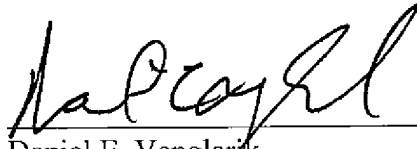
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *dvenglarik@munckcarter.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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